

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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FM AMCONSUL MARSEILLE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1393  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX  
AMCONSUL LYON  
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG  
AMCONSUL NICE

UNCLAS MARSEILLE 0313

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: JULY 8 SPEECH OF PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING AT  
CARPENTRAS

1. THIS MESSAGE DESCRIBES THE MAIN POINTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S  
SPEECH.

2. A LARGELY PARTISAN PARTI REPUBLICAN AUDIENCE OF SOME  
50,000 REPRESENTED ALL PARTS OF SOUTHERN FRANCE. FORTUNATE  
FOR THE OPEN-AIR EVENT WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE MARKET SQUARE,  
THE THREATENING WEATHER CLEARED JUST BEFORE THE PRESIDENT  
APPEARED. SPEAKING FOR 45 MINUTES IN SRIRITED TONES, HE  
DREW MUCH APPLAUSE DURING AND AFTER THE DELIVERY.

3. THROUGHOUT HIS REMARKS, THE PRESIDENT CHARACTERIZED  
HIMSELF AS LEADER OF ALL OF FRANCE AND THEREFORE MUST REMAIN  
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ABOVE PARTY POLITICS. HE FREQUENTLY CALLED UPON ALL CITIZENS  
TO UNITE IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH CONTINUALLY SEEKS  
THE BEST FOR THE NATION AS A WHOLE. AT THE SAME TIME, HE  
ADMONISHED THE PARTIES OF THE MAJORITE TO RESOLVE THEIR  
INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES AND SUPPORT THE PRIME MINISTER SO AS TO  
ACHIEVE VICTORY IN THE 1978 ELECTIONS.

4. WITH RESPECT TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, HE CHARACTERIZED FRANCE AS RESPECTED AMONG LEADING NATIONS. THOUGH AFFECTED BY CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, FRANCE WOULD FIND ITS OWN SOLUTIONS FOR THEM THROUGH ITS INTERNAL STRENGTH AND RESOLVE. FRANCE SUPPORTS EAST-WEST DETENTE AND A RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN "RICH AND NOT SO RICH NATIONS." HE FAVORS A CONFEDERATED EUROPE, IS SYMPATHETIC TOWARD THE ASPIRATIONS OF CERTAIN OTHER EUROPEAN NATIONS TO JOIN THE EEC, AND, THOUGH HAVING LEFT AFRICA, WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A ROLE THERE. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT SACRIFICE AGRICULTURE FOR OTHER OBJECTIVES, AND THUS WILL SEEK A REORGANIZATION OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY WITH EMPHASIS ON MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCTS, INCLUDING WINE, FRUITS, AND VEGETABLES.

5. ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, HE STATED THAT GOVERNMENT POLICIES WERE PROVIDING CLEAR IMPROVEMENT TO EARLIER DIFFICULTIES, AS WITNESSED BY LOWERED UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION, AND BY FOREIGN TRADE GAINS. THE 1978 BUDGET WOULD CONTAIN SPECIAL AIDS FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT FURTHER, SUCH AS PROGRAMS TO DRAW MORE YOUNG PEOPLE INTO THE WORK FORCE. ALSO, NEW SOCIAL LEGISLATION WOULD ASSIST THE ELDERLY AND OTHER DISADVANTAGED GROUPS.

6. FRENCH REPATRIATES GOT PARTICULAR MENTION. THE PRESIDENT CALLED FOR A NEW LAW TO AUGMENT THAT OF 1970 IN ORDER THAT

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THOSE REPATRIATES WHO REMAIN OUTSIDE THE ORIGINAL LEGISLATION WILL RECEIVE ASSISTANCE.

7. ON INTERNAL AFFAIRS, D'ESTAING SAID THAT THE 1978 ELECTIONS WOULD BE VITAL TO FRANCE'S FUTURE. HE EXHORTED ALL CITIZENS TO UNITE FOR THE NATIONAL PURPOSE SO THAT THE ELECTION PROCESS, WHICH IS AT THE HEART OF LIBERTY IN FRANCE, WOULD NOT DEGENERATE INTO INTERNAL CONFLICT WHICH WOULD SAP THE STRENGTH AND RESOLVE OF THE NATION. HE FORESAW A MAJORITE VICTORY, PROVIDED THAT THE PARTIES CONCERNED FIND COMMON PURPOSE AND WORK TOGETHER WITH THE PRIME MINISTER TO CARRY OUT GOVERNMENT POLICIES WHICH WILL STRENGTHEN THE NATION IN THE FUTURE, JUST AS THOSE IN THE PAST HAVE DONE. "A UNITED MAJORITE MUST OPPOSE A COMMON PROGRAM OF THE OPPOSITION, AND DELIVER A PROGRAM FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION." HE WARNED THE COMMUNIST PARTY NOT TO TINKER WITH FRENCH INSTITUTIONS SINCE THE CONSTITUTION WAS RATIFIED BY THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE, AND MUST NOT BE ALTERED BY "WRITERS OF POLITICAL TRACTS." FRANCE HAD SUCCEEDED IN KEEPING WAR AWAY FROM ITS BORDERS AND MUST NOT NOW LET ITSELF BE TORN APART BY INTERNAL BATTLE. IF, HOWEVER, THE LEFT DOES WIN THE ELECTIONS, HE FULLY INTENDS TO SERVE HIS FULL TERM AS PRESIDENT AND TO INSURE THAT THE CONSTITUTION IS FULLY OBSERVED.

IN THAT CASE HE WOULD APPEAL TO ALL DEMOCRATS FOR SUPPORT.  
"ONE WILL SEE IF THERE EXIST SUPPORTERS FOR A COUP D'ETAT."  
HE THUS MADE REFERENCE TO THE RECENT COMMUNIST ARTICLE  
"CAHIERS DU COMMUNISME" WHICH RECOMMENDS SOME SHIFT OF POWER  
FROM THE PRESIDENCY TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH.

8. IN CONCLUSION, THE PRESIDENT BRIEFLY BUT SPIRITEDLY  
ATTACKED THE PROGRAM COMMUN, CHARGING THAT IF APPLIED IT  
WOULD CUT THE COUNTRY IN TWO.

9. ADDITIONAL COMMENT: LOCAL LEFTIST LEADERS AND TRADES UNION  
SUPPORTERS HELD A COUNTER-MEETING IN CARPENTRAS STADIUM PRIOR  
TO THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH. THERE WERE RUMORS OF PLANNED OPEN  
DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. THESE, HOWEVER, DID  
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NOT MATERIALIZE. MEIMA

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## Message Attributes

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